

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 14-16 are pending.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 14-16 are allowed.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Iwabuchi, Japanese Patent Publication No. 10-044524. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Iwabuchi teaches a system which judges whether compressed bitmap image for each page is stored. For example, in paragraph [0032], Iwabuchi teaches that a portion which corresponds to the first page of the document data is stored in the code memory device 1021 is developed into image data to create the image data that represents the document image of that particular page (see step F301 in Fig. 3). The image generated in the document generating image section 102 is supplied to the output device, thus causing the first page to be printed (paragraph [0033]). A timer 1023 measures the generating time for the particular image data, the before-development size, and the after-development size and supplies the measurement result to the control section 103 (step F302) (paragraph [0033]). The control section compares the before-development size with the after-development size. The result is that the smaller of the two formats is stored in memory (paragraph [0034]). Thus, according to the Iwabuchi's device, the decision of which format to store is made on a page-by-page basis and the resulting stored over-all document could be a mix of both formats.

According to claim 1, either the second image data (which is the result of developing the first image data) or the third image data (which is the result of compressing the second image data) is stored. There is no mix of types being stored and the storing process is not done on a page-by-page basis. Accordingly, Iwabuchi fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 1.

Claim 3 recites substantially the same features recited in claim 1 and is allowable for the same reasons. The remaining claims are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

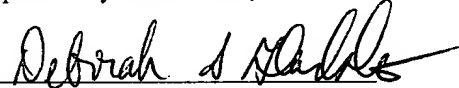
Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwabuchi in view of Applicant's Background Prior Art. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 7 depends from claim 3 and is allowable at least due to its dependency and Iwabuchi's failure to teach the features of claim 3 and further in view of the failure of the background prior art to overcome the deficiencies of Iwabuchi. Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 325772014000.

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Respectfully submitted,

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